

January 7, 2004

The Honorable Michael Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Committee
445 12th St., SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: WE 02-55 Improving Public Safety Communications in the 800 MHz Band

Dear Chairman Powell,

I am writing regarding a growing and dangerous problem, that of interference to the communications network from cellular carriers.

There are nearly 135,000 people in my district and five major communities including Austin, the state capitol. If first responders are unable to communicate with each other, not only are their lives at risk, but so are the lives of the people they protect.

As public servants, it is both your and my responsibility to ensure that first responders have effective tools to perform their jobs. This includes clear, reliable communications. Delay on making a decision on Docket 02-55 only increases the risk that someone's life or property will be lost.

Please consider the Consensus Plan immediately. This plan moves public safety communications away from the harmful networks utilized by the cellular industry and it does so without taxpayer money. The Consensus Plan also provides additional, critical spectrum for public safety systems, again, at no cost to government agencies or the American public.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mike Krusee
Texas House District 52